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News And Information For Pick™ Operating System Users

Issue Number 1

April 1984



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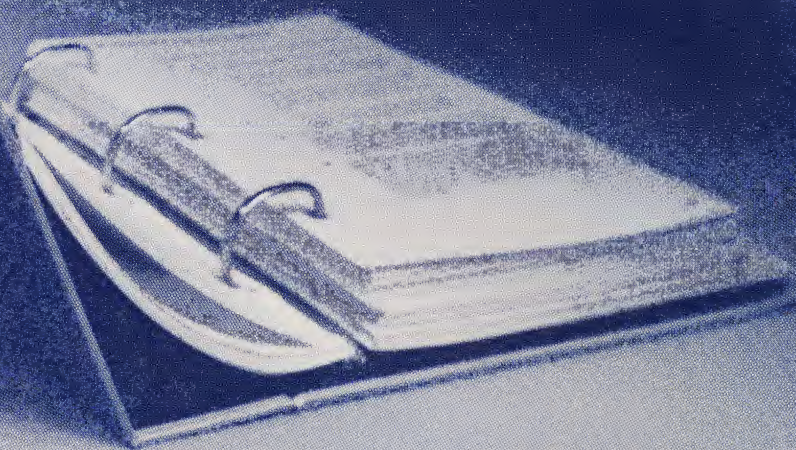


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# Memories of Spectrum '84

Reno's MGM Grand Hotel hosted Pick Spectrum '84 in February and yes, we were there.

Our feet have recovered from the walking, our throats from the talking. We've put away our bags of buttons and flowers and baseball caps and screwdrivers and matches and koala bears and zebra stickers and all the other freebies. We've finished sifting through the pounds of flyers and handouts and our own stacks of photos and cassette tapes with which we tried to record anything and everything of interest.

Of all we observed, what products caught our attention the most? Four of them.

First, we were impressed with the quality of the color graphics ink jet hardware at the Climax booth, where you could find a color terminal-printer-software package for \$5,000 that would print an excellent hardcopy of any color display at the press of a button. (We also liked Climax president Mike Sibley's observation that "it's surprising how few computer users rely on color output, considering that 19 out of every 20 televisions sold are color".)

Second, we were pleased to see the Pick implementation actually running on the IBM XT. Because of the enormous popularity of the XT, this one development alone has perhaps the greatest potential for causing the Pick operating system market to finally explode.

Third, we were intrigued with the Pick-like UPIX product running under Unix (available from Alfa Computer Enterprises). It will be very interesting to observe how Unix and other operating

## Pragma's PRODUCT PROFILES

Issue 1 • April, 1984

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system markets respond as Pick concepts begin to be introduced to the huge base of non-Pick users because of UPIX and other, similiar, "reverse-engineered" products.

Last, but not least, we were glad to find the flyer at the Interactive Systems booth announcing their forthcoming book *Discovering the Power of Pick*. A number of potential authors have been promising a book on Pick, but always with vague delivery dates. The Interactive flyer states their book will be available July 1st. □

## NCE Expands

Nancy Drake-Wedrick of National Customer Engineering has let us know that NCE has recently opened service centers in New York and Houston,

bringing their total of such offices to nine. NCE is a manufacturer-independent service company that offers alternative computer maintenance and depot repair for a variety of Pick computers. Their New York office services Boston, Connecticut and New Jersey. The Texas operation was acquired from Sunbelt Data Services, which in the last seven years installed 108 turnkey systems in the Houston area. NCE can be reached at Box 1260, Coronado, CA 92118. □

## Do You Consult?

If you provide consulting services for Pick users, we want to hear from you. *Pragma's Product Profiles* is compiling a directory of Pick consultants for

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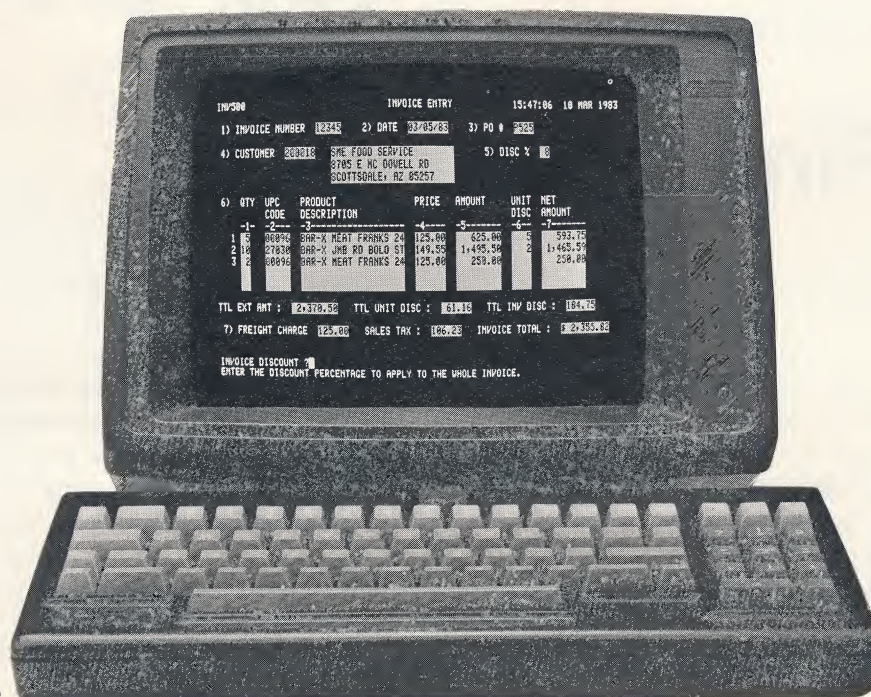
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SCREEN-GEN is written entirely in BASIC; there are no assembly

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code is supplied to each user. You no longer need to be dependent on anyone else for the maintenance of your system. SCREEN-GEN is available for all PICK-compatible systems. **To learn more about SCREEN-GEN, call (602) 993-3579 or mail the form below to:**



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publication in a future issue. If you are a Pick consultant and you want to be included in our directory, just send us your business card. If appropriate, jot down any specialty (for example, manufacturing or machine conversions) on the back of the card. ☐

reached at 119 N. Main St., Tipton, IN 46072. ☐

## Can't Find The Corn?

Computer Partners of Tipton has sent us a portion of the documentation from their Grain Merchandising System, which is software to support organizations involved in the purchase or sale of commodities, such as country grain elevators and grain merchandising offices. The vendor can be

## User Group Reports

**Northern California:** The Northern California Pick Users (NCPU) February meeting featured a presentation on "Application Development Tools: Uses and Misuses" by Alyce Elmore, while the March gathering included a review of Pick Spectrum. The rising popularity of the NCPU newsletter has required that non-members must now pay \$10 per year to continue receiving monthly issues, beginning in May. The next meeting of this group is currently scheduled for April 17th on Fisherman's Wharf in San

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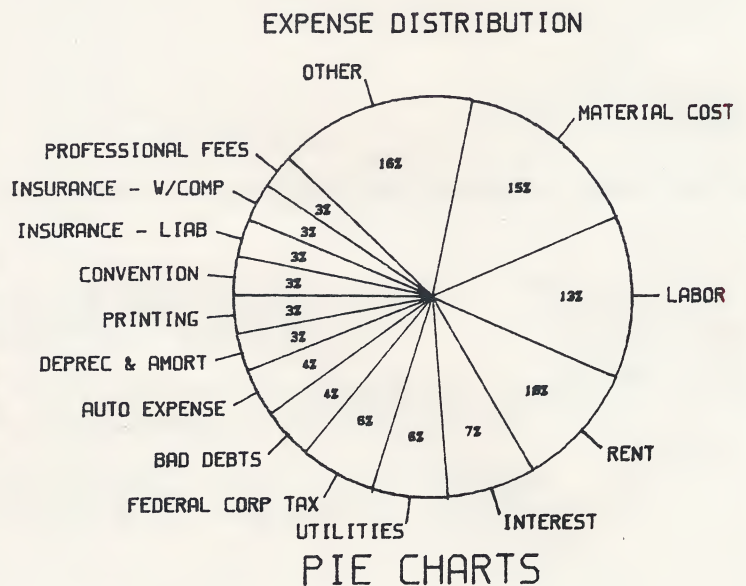
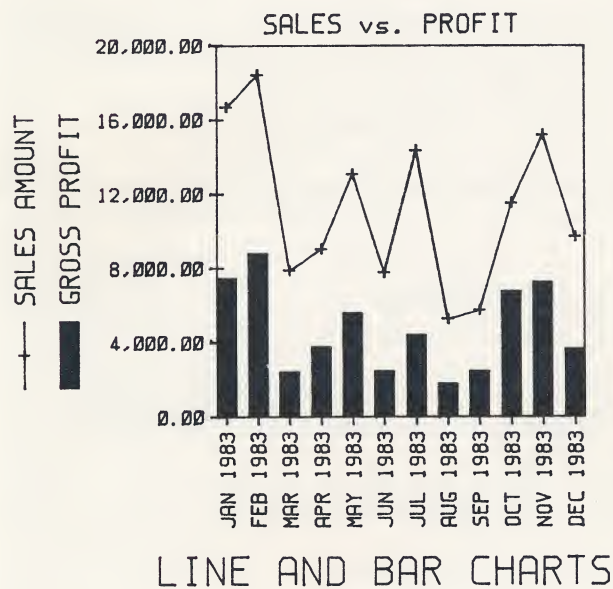
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Francisco. For more information about the  
NCPU, call Secretary Lisa Levsen at  
415-632-0977 or write Box 6759, Oakland,  
CA 94603.

**Colorado:** New Vice-President Dave  
Makowski reports that the Colorado Pick  
Users (CPU) January meeting caused over  
150 individuals to brave sub-zero  
temperatures in order to hear speaker  
Dick Pick give a presentation on R84 (now  
known as Open Architecture). Users  
interested in becoming CPU members  
should contact Secretary Bill Ehlert by  
calling 303-790-1870 or writing to Box  
3154, Denver, CO 80201. A recent update  
on membership charges received from Bill  
indicates that company memberships are  
\$60 per year, while a "corporate  
sponsorship" is \$100.

**Southern California:** The California Data  
Base Management Association (CDBMA)  
February meeting featured a presentation  
by Janice McGlashan of Bantam on that

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company's desktop Pick hardware, after Gary Brock of Dynatronics started the program off with a technical session on connecting real-time devices to time slice systems. Microdata and their new 1000 system were the guests at the March

## How Much Have You Missed?

**Pragma #1, August 1982:** Welcome to Pragma • ZIP Code File Design • A Program for Renumbering Statement Labels • Deriving Year-to-Date Counts • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: The Parts File • Moletron User Profile • More Memory, Fewer Reads • SYSMAP: A Cross-Reference System • How to Flag Missing Checks • 23 Wish List Items • Computing Modules with ENGLISH® • Building ENGLISH Headings with Proc • 4 Queries • Making Item Identifiers Hash Well • Tape Handling • Patching the Exit Problem in 3.2 SCREENPRO(TM) • The Shell Game.

**Pragma #2, November 1982:** We Have Liftoff • A Modulo Setting Program • Black Box Formatting • TRIM, DELIM and PROFILE Utilities • SYSMAP, A Cross-Reference System: File Format Input • Galinski Hamburg User Profile • LOOP vs. LOCATE Benchmarks • 25 Wish List Items • An Introduction to ENGLISH: Jargon • Proc Conversions • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Bill of Material Input • 14 Queries • The Trouble Tree • 2 Letters • A Switchbox for 32 Ports • Security and the DATA/BASIC(TM) Programmer • The Cookie Game • Some New Subscribers.

**Pragma #3, February 1983:** Is Pragma a Rare Medium, Well Done? • Edit Aides • A Proc for Cross-Referencing Q-Pointers • SYSMAP, A Cross-Reference System: Remaining File Input • Rainbow Natural Foods User Profile • More BASIC Benchmark Comparisons • Justifying Ragged Output • 13 Wish List Items • Generating Monthly Column Headings • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Purchasing • 5 Queries • An Introduction to ENGLISH: More Commands • Shared Site Checklist • Converting Point to Programs • 3 Letters • Generating Blank Forms • Animal, A Game that Learns • More New Subscribers.

**Pragma #4, May 1983:** Survey Says... • Pacific Valley Bank User Profile • SYSMAP, A Cross-Reference System: Dicts and Procs • Uncompiling: Unassembling Stack Code • Left vs. Right Justification Benchmarks • 4 Wish List Items • A Comparison of BASIC Implementations • More New Subscribers • An Undocumented Editor Capability • 3 Local User Group Reports • Avoiding Saved Lists with PQ-RESELECT • Self-Documenting Reports • A Query • A Survey of Hardware that Supports Pick-Style Software • Printer Trade-Offs • An Introduction to ENGLISH: Finding files • A Letter • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Purchase Order Entry • The Suat Game.

**Pragma #5, August 1983:** Happy Birthday! • Interactive Systems Producer Profile • Uncompiling: Regenerating Source Code • A Day of Revelation • IBM Personal Computer vs. Microdata(TM) Reality? Benchmarks • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Receiving • 3 Wish List Items • An Introduction to ENGLISH: Being Choosy • Converting Manual Point to Programs • 6 Local User Group Reports • More New Subscribers • A Program that Reports File Pointer Locations • Boiler Plate Processing with Runoff(TM) • A New Query and an Old Query Answered • SYSMAP, A Cross-Reference System: Automation • Tape Types • 6 Letters • Per-muted Index to the First Four Issues of Pragma • Amazing, a Maze Game.

**Pragma #6, November 1983:** Pick Pie Pictured • The Ubiquitous POINTER-FILE • Uncompiling: Resolving Labels • An Introduction to ENGLISH: Syntax Overview • AccuSoft Producer Profile • Rounding Out 7 Benchmarks On 5 Machines • Designing Data Entry Programs • 12 Wish List Items • GET: An Input Processor • 5 Local User Group Reports • More New Subscribers • Do You Know Your Proc Limits? • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Inspection • 2 Queries • Individual Accounts or Shared Accounts? • Lock Logic Illustrated • Password Protection • Two Undocumented Conversions • A Letter • How AMAZING Works.

**Pragma #7, February 1984:** More New Subscribers • A New Machine Visits Pragma • Bantam Hardware Overview • Suppressing LOCKED Clauses • An Introduction to ENGLISH: WITH, BY and TOTAL • Bantam Producer Profile • VANILLA, The No-Frills Manufacturing System: Disposition • A Bantam Diary • New Benchmark Timings For 8 More Machines • 6 Local User Group Reports • GET: Source Code • A Preprocessor for Symbolic Statement Labels • 2 Wish List Items • 3 Queries • Bantam Software Overview • A Letter • The Slide Game.

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event. Each meeting's program and dinner is \$18 with advance reservations, \$23 without. The group's April 18th meeting will be in Irvine, while San Diego will be the location for the May 16th meeting. For more information on future activities, call Secretary Linda Ristow at 714-660-3657 or write CDBMA at 9740 Appaloosa Road, San Diego, CA 92131.

**Washington DC:** What was known as the NCAMUG, where the "M" stood for Microdata, has successfully begun its transformation into a "general" Pick user group and is now known as the National Capital Area Pick Users Group (NCAPUG). Recent meetings have broken previous attendance records, and memberships are now \$25, \$50 and \$100 for individuals, organizations, and associates, respectively. If you want more information about the NCAPUG, contact Stan Seidlitz at Continental Computer Services, 9489 Silver King Court, Fairfax, VA 22031 or

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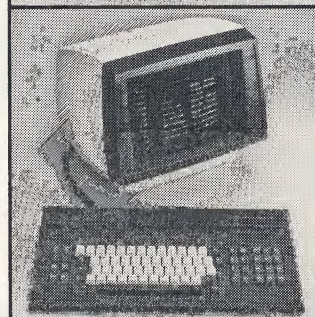
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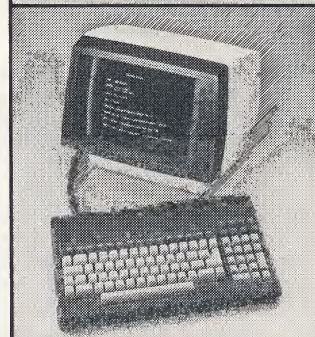
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**Arizona:** The February meeting of the Pick Users Group of Arizona featured an educational session on software engineering by Dave Fischer. The March meeting offered a presentation by Bantam Computers. The current tentative schedule of future sessions includes: utilities and undocumented features (as discussed at Pick Spectrum) in April, dictionaries in May, English in June, proc in July, and Mentor vs. Zebra in August. Users interested in more information about the Pick Users Group of Arizona should contact Secretary Jodi Hilgenberg at Communication Skill Builders, Box 42050, Tucson, AZ 85733. □

## The Publication Dam Breaks

1984 seems to be the year for Pick publishers, since a number of new publications for Pick and Pick-style systems have recently debuted. Visitors to Pick Spectrum usually discovered at least two: *PickWorld* and IDBMA's *International Spectrum*. *PickWorld* is published quarterly by PW Publishing, Suite 202, 25422 Trabuco Rd. #105, El Toro, CA 92630 and is "an affiliate of Pick Systems". The first issue distributed at Reno was twelve pages long, and the subscription price is \$15 per year in the USA.

*Spectrum* is published six times per year for \$40 in the USA. The premiere issue was 48 pages and can be ordered from IDBMA at 9740 Appaloosa Rd., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92131.

A third publication, devoted to Prime Information users, is *INFOCUS*, published quarterly for \$80 per year at Box 1005, Langhorne, PA 19047. The premiere January issue was 28 pages long. □



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## Write Reports in Minutes, Not Hours

Announcing EnGen™, the ENGLISH Generator. Now there's no need to learn the complicated syntax of a computer language.

EnGen is fool-proof, question-and-answer software for Microdata™ computers that guides new or confused users through the creation of any ENGLISH report.

**Put your users to work:  
give them EnGen today!**

## Do You Need EnGen?

1. Do you have users who should be typing their own ENGLISH commands, but aren't?
2. Are a good number of requests from your users eventually answered by an ad hoc ENGLISH report?
3. Do you have users interested in learning ENGLISH, but who stumble over the reference manual?
4. Is it difficult to find the time to train your users in how to use ENGLISH?
5. Do your users who try ENGLISH often get stuck on simple syntax errors?

# EnGen

To order EnGen with no obligation, make your check for \$495 payable to DC Software (Utah residents must add sales tax). Mail your order in care of Semaphore Corporation, 207 Granada Drive, Aptos, CA 95003. You will then receive EnGen's source code on magnetic tape (please specify 800 or 1600 bits per inch) along with complete instructions and a license agreement to be returned to DC Software. If within two weeks of receiving your tape you are not completely satisfied with EnGen for any reason, we will authorize you to return EnGen, and we will then send you a complete refund.

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